

KUYBYSHEV

Historical

The Fortress of Samara -- the first Russian settlement on the left bank of the Volga -- was established in 1586 to protect the southwest border of Russia. Gradually, during the 17th century, the city lost its strategic position, and the trading function became dominant. In 1851 the city became the official administrative center of the region, and developed rapidly after the extension of railroads through the city to the east. Samara was the center of an active revolutionary group in the early 1900's, one of the leaders of which was V.V. Kuybyshev, after whom the city was subsequently (1935) renamed. Government offices, relocated from Moscow, turned the city into a boom town during the war years. Today Kuybyshev is a focus of transport and heavy industry, and the administrative center of Kuybyshevskaya Oblast'.

Cultural

The low plateau above the right bank of the Volga, the former site of the Samara fortress and the old city which surrounded it, today houses the administrative and cultural section of the city. Museums include 1) the house where V.I. Lenin lived during the 1890's, 2) the regional studies museum and 3) the M.F. Frunze museum -- all of which house exhibits dealing with the revolutionary history of the area. There is also a museum depicting the life and work of the writer Maxim Gor'kiy, who lived in Samara in the 1890's.

Scientific

North of the city center are the gardens of the Kuybyshev Berry and Fruit Experimental Station, where new types of fruit trees, specially

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adapted to the climatic conditions of the Middle Volga Regions, have been developed.

East of the city near Kinel' is the Agricultural Institute which trains specialists in agriculture and water economy.

The Experimental Agricultural Station which has developed drought-resisting types of grain and oil producing plants also lies east of the city.

Economic

Food processing and light industry are located in the old part of the city. Here also are the city's largest thermal power plant, the river port, and the main railroad station.

North of this center are the industrial enterprises built in previous years -- the carburetor and bearing plants, silicate brickyard, and connected housing settlements.

To the south and east lie new industrial sections engaged in machine building and the production of building materials. A large refinery has been constructed near the Kuyash station, along with plants manufacturing drilling tools and metal parts for the oil producing industry.

Resorts and extensive orchards are located on the north and east outskirts of the city.

Population

1926 -- 172,000

1939 -- 350,000

1959 -- 806,000

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